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Comments: I served as a commissioner on the Acequia de Atalaya in Arroyo Hondo for ten years, resigning just last year. During my tenure, I and many other acequia commissioners met several times with David Norden, Chief Executive Officer of Taos Ski Valley, Inc. Mr. Norden assured us the Ski Valley had no plans to expand; it would just improve their existing services. However it seems like every year, there is big new development near the headwaters of our acequias.

The latest is the Taos Ski Valley, Inc. proposal to build a new base-to-base gondola, a restaurant near the top of Lift 7, and other substantial replacement projects. Concomitant with these building projects and their recent history of facility expansion, the Ski Valley wants to tap into new underground springs and increase their water usage.

We downstream stake-holders are justifiably concerned about this seemingly non-stop pattern of expansion and development and how it might affect the delivery of water to our acequias. On March 1, 2023, the Taos News referenced, "The village's [Village of Taos Ski Valley] recent catastrophic water failure, during which it lost an estimated 4 million gallons of water in about a month[hellip]" Today the Taos News website reported, "Taos Ski Valley announced on Sunday (April 2) that the resort is closed due to a municipal water system failure that could take days to repair."

We acequia parciantes and commissioners don't have much faith in the wisdom of the new proposed changes at the Ski Valley in the light of continuing water supply and delivery problems. I believe representatives of the Village of Taos Ski Valley; Taos Ski Valley, Inc.; the U. S. Forest Service; and local acequias should meet to discuss the Rio Hondo watershed and the implications of rampant development in the ski valley area before any further large-scale new building projects are approved.

Jai Cross, Arroyo Hondo, Acequia de Atalaya parciante